Tucano Cruise Planner and Tariff

2026-2027

Expedition Voyages on
THE MOTOR YACHT TUCANO



Well beyond the ordinary

Way off the grid

Active

Adventurous

Unique - Nimble - Smart

Far into the Wild - Stylish - Elegant

Amazon Umbrella Bird
Cephalopterus ornatus
Eliza Southwood

Amazon Cruise Planner and Tariff - 2025-2027

The Motor Yacht Tucano

What Makes the Best Amazon Voyage? Active, Authentic and Meaningful

Dear Colleague in Travel:

What do travelers want? We all want to want experience the world in a meaningful way. This has been our commitment for all of our years in the Amazon, to share the profound wonder at the exuberance of life, here in this wild magical forest. We are thoroughly devoted to observing the wonders of tropical nature.

There is lots of information in this booklet! But don't worry! It is really it is easy to plan a journey and we are happy to help! Check out the *Six Quick Facts* on the next page.

We look forward to offering travelers an exciting and meaningful experience deep in the greatest wilderness on earth.

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How are Tucano Voyages Different?

True Wilderness Itineraries - We go way out there: The M/Y Tucano goes farther into wilderness rainforest than any other tour vessel. We explore a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the *Central Amazon Conservation Complex*. This area is so remote, we rarely see any other vessels or people. Only in these wild places can travelers truly experience the wonderful diversity of rainforest flora and fauna.

Small Group Size: Our group size is very small, usually just 12-16 travelers on a voyage. On our many daily excursions we divide into even smaller groups, each with a naturalist guide. This is of crucial importance in observing wildlife! Small is the new luxury!

Lots of Excursions: We have four, and sometimes five, excursions into the forest every day. We engage with the forest at every opportunity through forest walks, launch excursions with quiet electric motors, and even kayak expeditions. There are choices of leisurely excursions or full bore adventures!

Focus, Focus, Focus ... on Nature: Everything about our cruises is dedicated to nature: where we go, our schedule, what we talk about and really, who we are. From the guides to the chef, all of us are devoted to observing the flora and fauna of this rainforest. All of our equipment from electric launch motors, the solar array and the M/Y Tucano itself, were chosen to help us explore this forest in the most authentic and sustainable way possible.

Comfortable, Elegant, Sophisticated

The M/Y Tucano is an elegant, comfortable, and air-conditioned yacht-style vessel. There are large public spaces, very attentive personal service, and a sophisticated cuisine. Our staff are some of the finest people we have ever met. But the true value of an expedition cruises is not the ship - it is the expedition experience! We don't try to be a luxury cruise because in some ways it detracts from the experience. What we strive to offer our guests is a thoughtful, truly authentic, and a deeply moving experience far into one of the last great wild places on the planet.



Why Love our Trips?

Because they are personal and authentic. There is nothing generic about our tours. The Amazon is our life. We love to share the astonishing beauty of this exotic destination and with the personal warmth that is such an important part of Brasilian culture.

Travelers can Choose! There is something for everyone. Our guests can choose what kind of experience they want. It can be a comfortable leisure cruise simply enjoying the exotic flora and fauna of the rainforest, or for the energetic, it can be a rigourous expedition into the howling trackless wilderness.

Because the cruises are just plain fun. What makes the *Tucano Experience* fun are the small groups, the choices of activities, the very comfortable vessel, the deeply skilled guides, and the friendly and professional expedition staff. All this adds up to a great vacation and a truly, once in a lifetime experience.

Companions in Adventure: Our Travelers Are the Best!
Our travelers are really interesting. They come from all over the world to feel the romance, the beauty, and the thrill of the Amazon. Our travelers are in good company.

Brasil is the place to be! The area we explore is a UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site which has some of the greatest wildlife diversity on Earth. Because of the variety of habitats, at any time of year we can walk, hike, kayak, and explore deep in the forest. And because it is one of the least inhabited places on the entire planet, the legendary creatures for which the Amazon is famous, still thrive here.



Five Quick Facts!

1) Itineraries: We operate two itineraries, one is four nights long and the other is six nights long.

2) Rates: The rate sheets within this tariff have the rates in US dollars. if you have questions, please let us know

3) Cabin Categories: There are three categories of cabins.
-Green Category: These are double occupancy cabins, they are smaller than the Yellow cabins and have bunk beds!
-Yellow Category: These are double occupancy cabins with twin beds side by side. These are the largest on the ship.
-Blue Category: These are single cabins with a single bed.

Quick fact! The Green / Blue cabins are the same physical spaces on the ship! We simply change the beds as requested in the reservation. We insert a bunk bed for a Green category double or place a single bed in the cabin for a Blue category!

4) How to get to the Ship: We provide free transfers from the city center of Manaus to the embarkation point! See information below.

5) Add-ons in Manaus: We can provide *optional* airport transfers, city tours, and hotel nights. But we are happy to just offer the cruise!



Travelers Feel Safe

Our cruises are naturally safe.....

Small Groups: With a small number of travelers and crew we can be sure that our contacts are healthy.

Wilderness Sanctuary: We are in very remote wild rainforest, away from groups of people and other travelers!

Our Staff: It's the people that count. Our crew members have worked with us for decades. They are conscientious, thoughtful, and very careful. We all take care of each other!



About Us

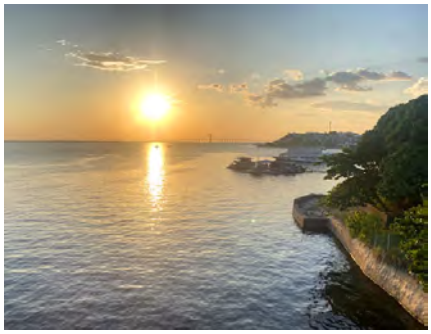
We began operating ecological tours in the Brasilian Amazon in 1989. We have conducted our voyages on a variety of expedition vessels, our *Motor Yacht Tucano* is by far our favorite!

We remain passionate about sharing and preserving the sublime beauty of this magnificent tropical wilderness. Our voyages are the most intensive and thoughtful offered in the entire Amazon.



With dedication and focus, the astonishing flora and fauna of the Amazon are still there to be found. We invite travelers to join us in this rare and important quest in the greatest wilderness on Earth.





The overlook of the *Mirante Lucia Almeida*

Frequently Asked Questions

How to Please Travelers? (It's all about expectations.)

The very best way to have satisfied travelers is to thoroughly inform them of the character of the tour program. A well informed traveler is able to relax and enjoy the experience. Below are some tips on what travelers can expect on our cruises. Be sure that all travelers receive copies of our pre-departure booklet "*Expedition Notes*"! A prepared traveler is happier!

What communications are there on board?

The *M/Y Tucano* has an emergency satellite telephone. Near Manaus there is cell phone coverage but in our wilderness travel, thankfully, there are no more towers. Neither is there an internet connection on the vessel! From a conservation and wildlife observation perspective, this really keeps the focus on nature. Most travelers enjoy this opportunity to disconnect and to experience the wild nature of the Amazon in its most elemental way. Should passengers need to receive emergency messages, these can be sent to our offices and in the daily contact by satellite telephone these will be passed on to the passengers. Travelers themselves can bring a sat phone though we ask that these not be used on excursions into the forest.

Is this an active program?

Our cruises are quite active, but can also be as relaxing as our guests prefer. Guests can choose! We navigate the *M/Y Tucano* mostly in the middle of the day and sometimes at night, which leaves us lots of time to explore off the vessel in the rainforest. For guests who want an active program there are several hours spent exploring every day. We have optional kayak excursions where we thread deep into the wilderness flooded forest. For those travelers that prefer a more leisurely but engaged experience, they simply choose from among the many daily excursions. The entirety of the nature experience is conducted on our excursions off the vessel, though it is an interesting experience just being on the vessel because we are surrounded by wild rainforest.

Will travelers see lots and lots of animals?

On our cruises we see lots of *kinds* of animals because the Amazon has the greatest *diversity* of wildlife on Earth. But we usually see only a small number of creatures of *each* kind. The fantastic diversity of creatures of the Amazon is spread out in the forest and in this true wilderness, the creatures actually *hide from us*. Often a good look at an animal will require binoculars. But these are wild creatures and not the semi-captive animals that are typically found in land-based tourist accommodations.

We never know what we will see on a trip, but our voyages generally see many more creatures than other Amazon cruises because of the skill of our guides, the small groups, the many excursions, our wilderness destination, and the fact that we are dedicated to exploration. On a typical expedition voyage we may see about 60-90 different species of birds, 3-6 kinds of monkeys, 5-10 different reptiles and amphibians, about 5 or so other types of mammals like anteaters, pink dolphins, or otters and, of course, a vast collection of some of the most interesting plants on Earth.

Do travelers get a chance to go into the forest?

Absolutely! We usually have 3 or more excursions off the vessel every day. This is not a sedentary cruise where guests lounge most of the day, nor is our focus on fine dining or luxury accommodations. We go walking in the forest every morning. We have several daily excursions in our launches or kayaks and at times we are able to visit small villages or the homes of pioneer families. Several nights during the cruise, weather permitting, we also have excursions to observe bizarre nocturnal creatures from the safety of our launches.

Are these luxury cruises?

Our accommodations are very comfortable and elegant, but we do not aim for luxury accommodations or fine dining. These are true *expedition voyages* and we have not sacrificed the exploratory character for the sake of luxury amenities. What matters is the remote places we visit, the story we tell, the activities in the forest and the authenticity of the experience. Our vessel is designed to provide exceptional and extraordinary experiences with very comfortable, but not fancy, accommodations. We cater to a discerning clientele seeking authenticity and adventure. We strive to offer travelers a sophisticated and elegant ship-board experience and an exceptional field experience.

Are these trips fun?

Of course the trips are fun! Our cruises are aimed at experiencing Amazon nature and the best kind of trip is good-humored, light-hearted, and dedicated to exploration. We try to be precise about nature and we enjoy ourselves at the same time. Weather and navigation permitting, we may be able to swim off pristine beaches. We also fish for piranha and sometimes they end up on our table. There is a cocktail hour on the top deck with *hors d'oeuvres* every evening and at the end of the trip we will have a "*caipirinha night*" and enjoy the famous drink of Brasil, the lime-based caipirinha.

Do we go to "touristy" places?

No we don't - we deliberately avoid made for tourism experiences. When we visit small communities or families, they may offer us some handicrafts for sale, and this is one way, but by no means the only way, that ecotourism can help preserve the forest by benefiting local folks.





When is the best time to go?

The best time to travel to the Amazon is really dependent on a traveler's personal considerations. The key to observing wildlife is not when you travel, but rather the diligence of the guides and the guests, the remote places visited, the number of excursions, and a little bit of luck. We operate our expeditions all year round and the trips are wonderful any time of year.

Our trips take place in the very middle of the Amazon in the State of Amazonas, Brasil. It rains much less in the center of the Amazon than it does in the Peruvian end...as much as 30% less. The rainy season runs roughly from late January through early May. Though it can rain more in the rainy season, it is rare to have a full day of rain. There are even some advantages to traveling in this season. Most riverine plants fruit and flower in this period and it is generally a bit cooler.

The season of dry / low water runs from September to November and in this period the rivers begin to shallow and broad beaches of fine white sand appear. It often rains a bit in the afternoon in the dry season too. This is an excellent time to see large fishing birds, marine mammals like pink dolphins, and at night, reptiles like Caiman, the Amazon's crocodiles. The months of October and November are drier and hotter and correspond to the lowest river levels of the year. Though some creatures will be less abundant in the dry season, other migratory creatures will fly or swim in to fill the void and to take advantage of the fantastic abundance of fish in this season. We usually adapt the itinerary in these months to navigate the changing river channels and the broad beaches that appear at every turn of the rivers. We are exploring!

The *M/Y Tucano* mostly travels in the middle of the day and at occasionally at night, which leaves the best hours to explore. But when we do travel, when practical, the vessel hugs the shore line and it is interesting to observe the nearby forest. We are constantly on the lookout for the creatures that frequently congregate at the river's edge. Though we remain comfortable, we do not become insulated from the forest. The river is fascinating to watch since we often see large fish leaping, pink dolphins, countless birds, and strange gargantuan trees with hanging vines.

What is the electricity on the M/Y Tucano?

The electrical system on board the *M/Y Tucano* is 110 volt / 60 cycle alternating current. The outlets in the cabins are the type used in North America. In the interests of conservation, in the morning, and for a short time in the afternoon, we turn off the diesel generators and all other noise-making machinery which includes the air-conditioning system. Most of the ship's systems continue to operate in these "Solar Power Hours". This is a good time to appreciate the wonderful stillness of the wilderness and the subtle natural sounds of the forest. For more information the section below: *Sustainability.*

Is a hotel night in Manaus necessary?

We strongly recommend that passengers spend at least one night, but preferably two nights, in the City of Manaus prior to our cruise. Travelers should be rested and eager to embark on their adventure in the greatest wilderness on earth. An early arrival reduces the risk of delayed baggage and also missing the cruise departure. Don't miss the boat! Manaus is a fascinating city surrounded by wild rainforest and with a fabled history where sophistication and artistic exuberance are found together with the rough and tumble of one of the world's greatest ports.

What are the recommended hotels?

Generally we recommend that travelers stay in a hotel in the city center of Manaus. These will be within walking distance of points of interest and also have well appointed restaurants with high standards of hygiene. There are many fine hotels in Manaus and some that we recommend, and from which we provide free cruise transfers are: *Hotel Villa Amazonia*, *Hotel Juma Opera*, *Hotel Casa Perpetua*, *Hotel Saint Paul*, and the *Hotel Ibis STYLES*. The complementary transfers are to and from the vessel but do not include airport transfers, though these are available at additional expense.

Currently we make reservations in two hotels in Manaus, the *Hotel Villa Amazonia* and the *Hotel Juma Opera*. In this booklet are rates for these well located and well appointed hotels in the city center.

What are the airline connections to Manaus?

Manaus is the most readily accessible city in the entire Amazon. There are several direct international flights and many connecting flights via the vast airline system within Brasil and South America.

European Travelers

a) COPA Airlines has direct flights to Manaus from Panama City with connections from Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Paris, and Madrid.
b) Manaus had many daily flight connections within Brasil and there most of the world's carriers have direct flights to Brasil.

North American Travelers

Direct non-stop flights! Currently there are thirteen direct, non-stop international flights into Manaus every week!

a*) Azul Airlines:* three times weekly from Fort Lauderdale, code sharing with United Airlines, TAP Portugal, Jet Blue.

b) GOL Airlines: twice weekly from Miami, code sharing with American Airlines, Air France, Copa, Air Europa, Air Canada, TAP Portugal, KLM, Alitalia

c) COPA Airlines: four times weekly from Panama city with connections from Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Fort Lauderdale, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angles, Miami, New York, Newark, Orlando, San Francisco, Tampa, Washington

d) Avianca Airlines: four weekly flights from Bogota, code sharing with United Airlines and Air Canada.

Flights with Connections

There are dozens of daily flights into Manaus from South America's largest flight hub, São Paulo. Most of the world's major carriers fly into São Paulo from the far corners of the earth, including flights from all of South America's countries. So there are many ways to get to the gateway to the Amazon!



Six Night Cruise:
Voyage to the Heart of the Amazon

This is the most exploratory voyage in the entire Amazon - and is the Amazon's only true *expedition voyage*. We venture along hidden uninhabited rivers deep into the wild woods where the magnificent plants and animals of the rainforest reign supreme. There are many active excursions into the forest everyday. By day and by night we seek out the mysterious life that stirs in this vast wilderness forest.

The *Motor Yacht Tucano* is comfortable and nimble and enables us to voyage far up the least inhabited major river in the Amazon basin: The Rio Negro. We venture farther than any other visitors into the UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site, the *Central Amazon Conservation Complex*.

With our small group, our skilled naturalist guides, and our expedition itinerary, we observe creatures almost never seen by other visitors. Far off the beaten path, we also visit small villages where the rhythms of life are tuned to the cycles of the wilderness. On the last day of the cruise we visit the *Encontro das Aguas*, the confluence of the world's two largest rivers, the Rio Negro and the mighty, magnificent, Amazon River itself.

This experience is well beyond any ordinary cruise and way off the grid - the quintessential Amazon expedition voyage.

Where This Trip Begins and Ends

Embark Day 1 - Time: 07:30am: This voyage begins with a complementary transfer to the vessel from select hotels in the city center of Manaus. These are: the Hotel Villa Amazonia, Hotel Juma Opera, Hotel Casa Perpetua, Hotel Saint Paul, and the Hotel Ibis STYLES. Travelers not staying at one of these hotels may meet the group at the embarkation point noted below. Travelers may board the vessel only when the cruise transfer arrives with the guides. The embarkation point is: Mirante Lucia Almeida, Av Sete de Setembro, Numero 8, Centro, Manaus, AM 69005-140. ***Please note that in case of adverse weather or policy change of this public port, the embarkation point is subject to change.*

Disembark Day 7 - Time: 07:30am: This voyage ends with a complementary transfer to select hotels in the city center of Manaus. These are: the Hotel Villa Amazonia, Hotel Juma Opera, Hotel Casa Perpetua, Hotel Saint Paul, and the Hotel Ibis STYLES. Travelers not staying at one of these hotels will disembark at the public port, the *Mirante Lucia Almeida*, Av Sete de Setembro, Numero 8, Centro, Manaus, AM 69005-140. ***Please note that meeting times and places are subject to change!*

Early Disembarkation: Due navigational considerations and port regulations, early disembarkation is permitted only by pre-arrangement, at additional expense, and only with vehicles and staff of the M/ Y Tucano. Early disembarkation begins at a distant river anchorage and the landing place will be distant from the city center.

2026 Departures: Voyage to the Heart of the Amazon (6N/7D)

2026 Departure Dates: Jan 03-09, Jan 17-23, Feb 07-13, Feb 28-Mar 06, Mar 14-20, Apr 04-10, May 02-08, May 16-22, Jun 06-12, Jun 27-Jul 03, Jul 11-17, Aug 01-07, Aug 22-28, Sep 05-11, Sep 26-Oct 02, Oct 10-16, Oct 31-Nov 06, Nov 21-27, Dec 05-11, Dec 22-28

2027 Departures: Voyage to the Heart of the Amazon (6N/7D)

2027 Departure Dates: Jan 09-15, Jan 30-Feb 05, Feb 13-19, Mar 06-12, Mar 27-Apr 02, Apr 10-16, May 01-07, May 29-Jun 04, Jun 12-18, Jun 26-Jul 02, Jul 10-16, Jul 31-Aug 06, Aug 21-27, Sep 04-10, Sep 25-Oct 01, Oct 16-22, Oct 30-Nov 05, Nov 20-26, Dec 21-27



Ceremonial Head Dress,
Baré Indigenous Tribe



The Muses, Praça Dom Pedro II

Voyage to the Heart of the Amazon (6 Nights)
A True Expedition Voyage

Description: *Voyage to the Heart of the Amazon* is different from all other cruises offered in the entire Amazon. It is a true "expedition voyage". We go far, far into the forest and are able to see creatures that are hidden to other visitors. We explore some of the most untouched rainforest in all of the Amazon. The voyage begins in Manaus, Brasil and the *Motor Yacht Tucano* navigates far up the *Rio Negro* [pronounced NAY-GRO]. In the daytime, and often at night, we seek out the wildlife that still lives in the world's greatest wilderness. There are very few settlers so the plants and animals are still abundant.

Voyages on the *M/Y Tucano* are quite active with four or five excursions off the vessel every day. Together with our naturalist guides we get out into the forest and explore----not simply watch from the deck of the vessel. There are daily walks in the forest and we scout the small streams that branch off the main river using our electric powered launches or optionally by kayak. One day we may swim off a river beach in water as refreshing as rainwater. We are always treated to vistas of wild rainforest stretching as far as the eye can see.

On our excursions into the rainforest we observe magnificent plants of every imaginable shape and size. We listen to the exotic calls of birds and mammals and watch them from a forest trail or while scouting the river's edge in our launches. In the evenings we have a brief discussion about the creatures that we observed and the extraordinary ways in which the plants and animals have evolved to live in this ancient rainforest. Some nights we explore the river's edge in our launches and with spotlights we see caiman, close relatives of crocodiles.

Our basic navigation plan is to explore upstream northwest on the *Rio Negro,* as far as a major river called the *Rio Jaueperi*, over 200 miles from Manaus, Brasil. Along the way we explore many small tributaries where the forest is wild and undisturbed. Our journey takes us to many different rainforest habitats which allows us to see a great diversity of wildlife.

On the last day of the voyage we travel to the "*Encontro das Aguas*", the meeting of the waters of the world's two largest rivers: The *Amazon River* and the *Rio Negro*. The light colored water of the Amazon and the dark water of the Negro do not readily mix and the two rivers flow side by side for many miles.

UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site

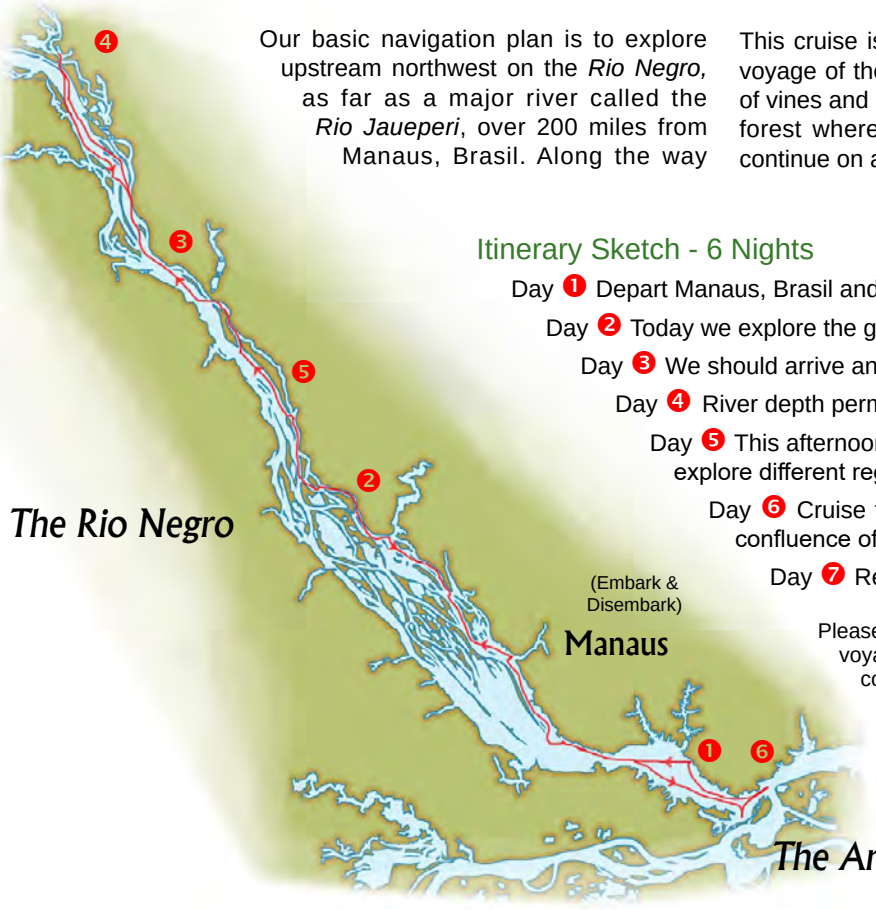
Voyage to the Heart of the Amazon explores some of the most untouched rainforest in all of the Amazon. The *M/Y Tucano* is the only expedition vessel that explores far into the world's largest Amazon reserve the UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site: *The Central Amazon Conservation Complex.*



http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/998

This reserve is the largest in the Amazon with six million hectares of uninhabited wilderness. Roaming these trackless forests are all of the creatures that have made the Amazon the object of myth and legend. Along the *Rio Negro* there are only a few small settlements large enough to be considered towns. It remains a true wilderness.

This cruise is the quintessential, and truly superlative, expedition voyage of the wilderness Amazon. We explore beyond the tangle of vines and limbs along the river banks and experience the primal forest where the forces that shape plant and animal evolution continue on as they have for millions of years.



Itinerary Sketch - 6 Nights

Day 1 Depart Manaus, Brasil and voyage north on the Rio Negro to the Rio Apuaú

Day 2 Today we explore the giant lake inside a river island, Lago Turia

Day 3 We should arrive and scout the Lago Buriti this morning and evening.

Day 4 River depth permitting, today we scout the Rio Jaueperi

Day 5 This afternoon we turn the vessel bows to the southeast and explore different regions on our course toward the Amazon River

Day 6 Cruise the Amazon River and the Encontro das Aguas, the confluence of the Amazon River and The Rio Negro.

Day 7 Return to Manaus, disembark early morning.

Please note that, because our cruises are exploratory expedition voyages, we adapt the vessel course to weather and river level conditions to maintain an interesting cruise. The itinerary must be considered approximate. But this does not diminish the cruise, instead it allows us to improvise and seek interesting places to explore.

Itinerary: Voyage to the Heart of the Amazon (6 Nights)
A True Expedition Voyage

Day 1 Early this morning all guests board the vessel the *Motor Yacht Tucano* and depart upstream on the Rio Negro. Through the morning we will cruise through the world's largest river island system, the Anavilhanas Archipelago. From the observation deck we scan the magnificent tangle of vegetation at the water's edge. By mid-afternoon the vessel has gone beyond the frontier of settlement and entered a wilderness area. Both shores are covered by dense rainforest. Though we cannot predict what we will see, we likely observe pink river dolphins, primates and a large collection of exotic birds. Most certainly we will be treated to magnificent forest vistas and the spectacular trees themselves. In the late afternoon we embark in the launches and hunt for wildlife. (LD)

Day 2 Early this morning we divide into small groups and explore the rainforest in our launches or kayaks with a naturalist guide. We should hear and perhaps see howler monkeys accompanied by a morning serenade of toucans. After breakfast we go for a walk in the forest where we will get a good start on understanding Amazon ecology. Around midday we return for lunch and the vessel will get underway, forging ahead on this magnificent wilderness waterway. In the late afternoon we will again explore the forest in our launches and listen to the sunset chorus of birds, frogs and howler monkeys. Weather permitting, we may do a night excursion in our launches to marvel at nocturnal creatures of the Amazon. (BLD)



Day 3 This morning there will be an early exploration of the waking forest. We will keep our eyes open for sloths... on most trips we see them often. We return for breakfast followed by either a walk in the forest or an excursion in the launches. The *M/Y Tucano* will travel during the middle of the day and we stop in the afternoon for an excursion. Tonight the vessel may travel a bit more as we marvel at the night sky crowded with stars. (BLD)

Day 4 After our morning excursions the *M/Y Tucano* will navigate along the heavily forested shore, scouting for wildlife. We may stop for a visit at a settler's home carved out of the forest. In the early afternoon we should be near an extraordinary river called the Rio Jaueperi. Here we will see a kind of forest known as the *varzea*. We will scout along the shoreline for some of the extraordinary creatures found only in this unique environment. Weather permitting, we will have a night excursion to observe nocturnal creatures. (BLD)





Day 5 Today we will turn the vessel to the southeast and begin our course to the Amazon River. We will continue to scout in our launches and walk in the forest as we explore the estuaries of deep forest rivers that enter the Rio Negro. Weather and water depth permitting, we will explore areas rarely visited by anyone else. Tonight the *M/Y Tucano continues* downstream, and explore deep into the rainforest on this magnificent river. (BLD)



Day 6 We begin the day with a dawn excursion hunting for wakening wildlife followed by a full Brasilian breakfast. Conditions and navigation permitting, we will then go one last time into the forest. In the mid-afternoon we will begin to journey downstream.

We should arrive late in the day at the "*Encontro das Aguas*" - a stark, several-mile-long line where two of the world's largest rivers, the Amazon River and the Rio Negro, join in a turbulent maelstrom. Here the dark water of the Negro runs beside the opaque brown water of the Amazon. This is often a good place to fish for the legendary scourge of the Amazon, piranhas, which might just become *hors d'oeuvres*.

At sunset the M/Y Tucano will once again turn her bows upstream on the Rio Negro and journey to our overnight anchorage. As we pass in front of Manaus, we will marvel at the scale of one of the world's largest and most vibrant port cities, over a thousand miles from the sea. As we pass the glittering lights on shore, we will have a small party, as we say in Brasil, a *festazinha*, our "Caipirinha Night". Tonight we will have a farewell dinner and prepare for an early departure in the morning. (BLD)

Day 7 Early this morning, after a hearty breakfast, all guests disembark from the *M/Y Tucano*. (B)

Meal Codes: B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

Please note that the day-to-day schedule is approximate. Because our cruises are exploratory expedition voyages, we adapt the vessel course to weather and river level conditions to maintain an interesting cruise. But this does not diminish the cruise, instead it allows us to improvise and seek interesting places to explore.

Degree of Difficulty: Good health is necessary. Guests can have an enjoyable trip by simply staying on board the M/Y Tucano and participating in launch excursions, but the nature programming takes place on the excursions off the vessel. Participants in our walks in the forest must be able to comfortably walk on uneven terrain at a leisurely pace for up to two hours at a time.

Four Night Cruise:
Into the Wild Amazon

This cruise explores remote wild rainforest beyond the limits of typical tours and beyond the boundaries of human settlement. Over four nights the expedition voyage *Into the Wild Amazon* takes travelers into the dense forests and small tributaries within the UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site: *The Central Amazon Conservation Complex*. With our small group of adventurers, our very experienced naturalist guides, and our deeply capable exploration crew, we venture into one of the richest areas of flora and fauna diversity on the planet.

We usually also visit an isolated village to see what life is like living on the edge of the greatest wilderness on Earth. These visits are not choreographed tourism performances, but genuine, congenial, and welcome gatherings.

On the last day of the cruise we visit the *Encontro das Aguas*, the confluence of the world's two largest rivers, the Rio Negro and the mighty, magnificent, Amazon River itself. In a brief amount of time, *Into the Wild Amazon* provides an experience of the essence of Amazon nature.

Where This Trip Begins and Ends

Embark Day 1 - Time: 11:00am: This voyage begins with a complementary transfer to the vessel from select hotels in the city center of Manaus. These are: the Hotel Villa Amazonia, Hotel Juma Opera, Hotel Casa Perpetua, Hotel Saint Paul, and the Hotel Ibis STYLES. Travelers not staying at one of these hotels may meet the group at the embarkation point noted below and board the vessel when the cruise transfer vehicle arrives. Travelers may board the vessel only when the cruise transfer arrives with the guides. The embarkation point is: Mirante Lucia Almeida, Av Sete de Setembro, Numero 8, Centro, Manaus, AM 69005-140. ***Please note that in case of adverse weather or policy change of this public port, the embarkation point is subject to change.*

Disembark Day 5 - Time: 07:30am: This voyage ends with a complementary transfer to select hotels in the city center of Manaus. These are: the Hotel Villa Amazonia, Hotel Juma Opera, Hotel Casa Perpetua, Hotel Saint Paul, and the Hotel Ibis STYLES. Travelers not staying at one of these hotels will disembark at the public port, the *Mirante Lucia Almeida*, Av Sete de Setembro, Numero 8, Centro, Manaus, AM 69005-140. ***Please note that meeting times and places are subject to change!*

Early Disembarkation: Due navigational considerations and port regulations, early disembarkation is permitted only by pre-arrangement, at additional expense, and only with vehicles and staff of the M/ Y Tucano. Early disembarkation begins at a distant river anchorage and the landing place will be distant from the city center.

2026 Departures: Into the Wild Amazon (4N/5D)

2026 Voyage Dates: Jan 11-15, Feb 01-05, Feb 15-19, Mar 08-12, Mar 29-Apr 02, Apr 12-16, May 10-14, May 31-Jun 04, Jun 14-18, Jul 05-09, Jul 26-30, Aug 09-13, Aug 30-Sep 03, Sep 20-24, Oct 04-08, Oct 25-29, Nov 08-12, Nov 29-Dec 03

2027 Departures: Into the Wild Amazon (4N/5D)

2027 Departure Dates: Jan 03-07, Jan 17-21, Feb 07-11, Feb 28-Mar 04, Mar 14-18, Apr 04-08, Apr 25-29, May 09-13, Jun 06-10, Jul 04-08, Jul 25-29, Aug 08-12, Aug 29-Sep 02, Sep 19-23, Oct 03-07, Oct 24-28, Nov 14-18, Nov 28-Dec 02, Dec 12-16



Mural, Praça Quatorze, Manaus

Into the Wild Amazon (4 Nights)
The Wild Essence of the Amazon

Description: This *expedition voyage* endeavors to capture the spirit and essence of the Amazon in a relatively short amount of time. We voyage into the wilderness rainforest on one of the most magnificent rivers in the Amazon basin, *The Rio Negro*. Over three and one half days we walk in the forest, kayak on hidden streams, explore in our launches and visit local communities along the edges of this wild and largely uninhabited river.

There are four or five excursions off the vessel every day. Early mornings we glide along quiet channels in our launches or kayaks among giant rainforest trees draped with vines and orchids. The silence is broken only by the rustling of leaves by Squirrel or Howler Monkeys, or by the occasional piercing shriek of a Screaming Piha bird. Mid-morning on most days we will walk in the rainforest. One day we may visit a small riverfront community. Some nights we search for nocturnal creatures in our launches out in the star-filled darkness.

Into the Wild Amazon takes us to a variety of environments including the *igapó,* where dark water floods into the forest. We also explore the *terre firme* forest, the high forest with towering trees and dense undergrowth. On lazy afternoons we may fish for the famous Amazon resident, the Piranha, some of whom we may see again on an appetizer plate. On our last day of the voyage we are treated to the ever-changing vistas of travel on the mighty Amazon River itself. Most travelers are astonished by the scale and grandeur of this majestic waterway that drains a continent.

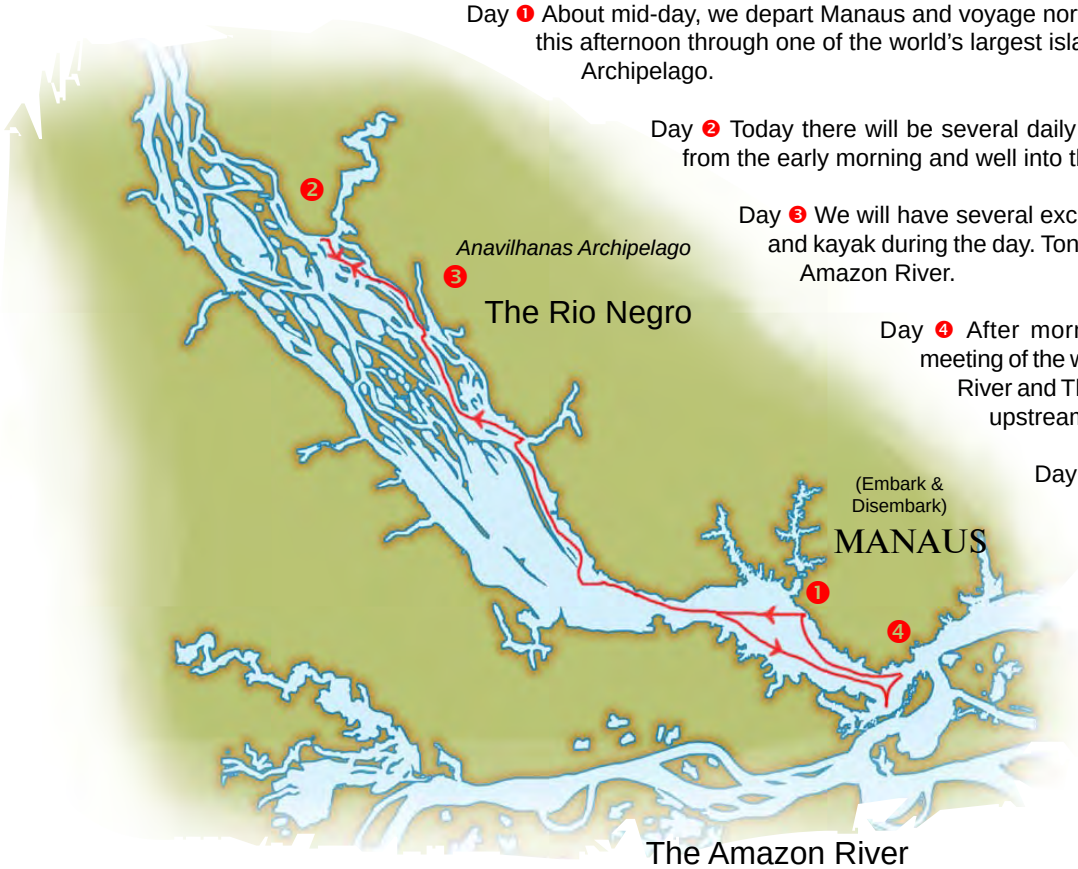
On the cruise *Into the Wild Amazon*, time and weather permitting, we also experience the culture of the people who live in this vast wilderness. We may visit a small fishing village perched on the river bank where the traditional life is still guided by the rhythms of the rise and fall of the river. We may also visit the homestead of a family who make and grow almost everything they need. For many travelers these visits with local settlers, whose lives are so dramatically different from ours, are some of the most memorable experiences of the cruise.



The last evening of the voyage we will coast along one of the greatest ports in the world, the *Porto de Manaus*.

At our farewell dinner we will have the opportunity to reflect on our extraordinary experience and offer a toast to one of the most remarkable places on Earth.

Itinerary Sketch - 4 Nights



Day ❶ About mid-day, we depart Manaus and voyage north on the Rio Negro. We voyage this afternoon through one of the world's largest island systems, the Anavilhanas Archipelago.

Day ❷ Today there will be several daily excursions into the rainforest during from the early morning and well into the night.

Day ❸ We will have several excursions into the forest by foot, launch and kayak during the day. Tonight we travel downstream toward the Amazon River.

Day ❹ After morning excursions, we voyage to the meeting of the world's two greatest rivers: the Amazon River and The Rio Negro. In the evening we cruise upstream on the Rio Negro.

Day ❺ Early morning we disembark.

Please note that, because our cruises are exploratory expedition voyages, we adapt the vessel course to weather and river level conditions to maintain an interesting cruise. The itinerary must be considered approximate. But this does not diminish the cruise, instead it allows us to improvise and seek interesting places to explore.

Itinerary: Into the Wild Amazon, (4 Nights)
The Wild Essence of the Amazon



Day 1 This afternoon we embark on the *Motor Yacht Tucano* in Manaus, Brasil. We depart on the *Rio Negro* and as the vessel glides upstream over lunch we will have our first talk about Amazon key environments. By late afternoon we enter one of the world's largest river island systems, the *Anavilhanas Archipelago*. The boat will weave along a winding channel with rainforest on both sides in a riot of brilliant vegetation. Weather permitting, we will go for a launch excursion in the gnarled and dense flooded forest along the river's edge. We may see some Squirrel Monkeys and we may hear the other-worldly growls of Howler Monkeys echoing through the primitive rainforest. The Amazon has one of the greatest collection of birds in the world and we are sure to see some of these brightly colored jewels perched in the treetops.

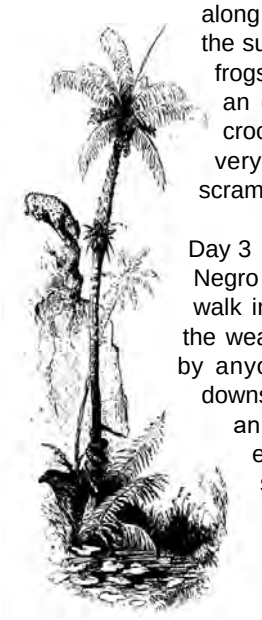
In the late afternoon, we return to the *M/Y Tucano* for *hors d'oeuvres* on the observation deck and a toast to the rainforest sunset. Following dinner we will embark in our launches in search of nocturnal creatures such as the Caiman, the Amazon's crocodilians. We may also see one of the large night birds such as a Great Potoo, with its bulging eyes and large mouth, adapted to swallow the huge Mariposa Moths. (LD)

Day 2 Shortly after sunrise this morning we explore the Anavilhanas Archipelago, a reserve that includes the world's largest system of river islands and also areas of tall dense rainforest. Here we will see the strange environment called the *igapó*, the black water flooded forest, where trees grow right out of the dark water of the Rio Negro. Travelers can explore in our launches or conditions permitting, in kayaks. After about two and a half hours of exploring we return to the vessel for a hearty Brasilian breakfast.



After some time to relax, weather permitting, in mid-morning we go for a walk in the type of rainforest known as the *terra firme.* In addition to the countless plants and small creatures of the forest floor, here we have a good chance to see the markings, if not the animals themselves, of some of the Amazon's great mammals like peccaries (wild pigs) or even a jaguar.

Around mid-day we return to the vessel for lunch and a siesta. In the afternoon we will excursion in our launches along the edges of the dense forest and listen to the sunset chorus of birds, howler monkeys, and frogs. Weather permitting, tonight we will have an excursion to spot caiman (the Amazon's crocodiles) and other nocturnal creatures. We very often see arboreal porcupines or sloths scrambling high in the limbs. (BLD)



Day 3 Today we will voyage southeast on the Rio Negro and continue to scout in our launches and walk in the forest. We will explore, according to the weather and water depth, areas rarely visited by anyone else. Tonight the *M/Y Tucano* goes downstream, and river depth permitting, will enter an east bank affluent of the Rio Negro and explore on deep into the rainforest on this small river. After our nocturnal exploration of the rainforest in our launches we return to the *M/Y Tucano* for a good night's rest. (BLD)

Day 4 We begin the day with a dawn excursion hunting for wakening wildlife followed by a full Brasilian breakfast. Conditions and navigation permitting, we will then go one last time into the forest. In the mid-afternoon we will begin to journey downstream. We should arrive late in the day at the "*Encontro das Aguas*" - a stark, several-mile-long line where two of the world's largest rivers, the Amazon River and the Rio Negro, join in a turbulent maelstrom. Here the dark water of the Negro runs beside the opaque brown water of the Amazon. This is often a good place to fish for the legendary scourge of the Amazon, Piranhas, which might just become hors d'oeuvres.

At sunset the M/Y Tucano will once again turn her bows upstream on the Rio Negro and journey to our overnight anchorage. As we pass in front of Manaus, we will marvel at the scale of one of the world's largest and most vibrant port cities, over a thousand miles from the sea. As we pass the glittering lights on shore, we will have a small party, as we say in Brasil, a *festazinha*, our "Caipirinha Night". Tonight we will have a farewell dinner and prepare for an early departure in the morning. (BLD)

Day 5 Early this morning, after a hearty breakfast, all guests disembark from the *M/Y Tucano*. (B)

Meal Codes: B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

Please note that the day-to-day schedule is approximate. Because our cruises are exploratory expedition voyages, we adapt the vessel course to weather and river level conditions to maintain an interesting cruise. But this does not diminish the cruise, instead it allows us to improvise and seek interesting places to explore.

Degree of Difficulty: Good health is necessary. Guests can have an enjoyable trip by simply staying on board the M/Y Tucano and participating in launch excursions, but the nature programming takes place on the excursions off the vessel. Participants in our walks in the forest must be able to comfortably walk on uneven terrain at a leisurely pace for up to two hours at a time.



O Brave New Tucano!
Nimble, Smart, Stylish, and Elegant, the Amazon Expedition Small Ship

New Spaces to Enjoy the Rainforest

The *M/ Y Tucano* has been substantially renovated. The staterooms and salon were completely redone as was the main salon. And all of the expedition voyage activities were re-imagined to enable travelers to themselves choose how they will be exploring the depths of the Amazon rainforest.

We have made the exploration experience still more comfortable and elegant by thoroughly upgrading the accommodations and public spaces. There were countless small improvements to help the vessel stay new and inviting.



One of the most pleasurable of innovations are the glass panels in the salon that make the *M/Y Tucano* larger, brighter, and more stylish. Creating the glass walls presented a considerable engineering puzzle. We wanted to avoid turning the salon into an aquarium-style enclosure that would insulate the travelers from the rainforest; an enclosed space would not fit the vessel's commitment to sustainability.

The solution was a system of glass panels that actually *open and glide* into hidden pockets. Now, at certain times of day, the walls of the salon are opened and travelers enjoy the flower-scented breezes of the Amazon as well as experiencing an immediacy with the rainforest that cannot be had in a enclosed space. When the day becomes hot or we experience one of the magnificent torrential storms of the rainforest, we simply close the glass walls and enjoy the ever changing rainforest tableau in air-conditioned comfort.



Elegant and Sophisticated

In order to enhance the feeling of elegance, the staterooms on the *M/Y Tucano* were fully refinished and redecorated. The decorative style is of a sophisticated yacht with polished brass and highly varnished wood panels, and this ambience was renewed with new fixtures and refinishing.

Many new artworks were commissioned for the vessel. For the sense of style as well as to pamper the explorers, the stateroom amenities were also refashioned. The *M/Y Tucano* now features Egyptian cotton sheets woven by Brasil's premier luxury manufacturer, ***Artelassê***. Each stateroom also has a bit of France via shower kits by ***L'Occitane***, an all natural fragrance that works well in the tropical environment.



Imagination + Authenticity = Wonderful Experiences

Finally, the most important renovation made in our project of renewal was the re-imagining of the *expedition voyage* experience. The many daily excursions into the rainforest were reviewed in order to satisfy the great range of interests that travelers bring to these expedition voyages. The *M/Y Tucano* has a commitment to enabling travelers to choose among different ways to experience the wilderness rainforest.

Travelers can choose a leisurely, contemplative expedition pace with the keen observations of our naturalist guides, or alternatively, they can venture out with our deep forest guides on rigorous full-on adventures of deep forest hikes or kayak explorations in remote rainforest streams. Travelers can also choose to simply relax on the vessel with magnificent vistas of the rainforest. With many options to choose from, travelers can themselves actively engage in finding the most enjoyable, meaningful and authentic way to enjoy the wonders of the greatest wilderness on earth.

Stateroom Categories
The three categories of cabins on the M/Y Tucano are named after the national colors of Brasil, Green, Blue and Yellow. All the cabins are air-conditioned, all have large windows, and all have private baths with sinks, toilets and showers. Which are the Blue and which are the Green Staterooms? *They are actually the same cabins on the vessel!* When we make them up with single beds they are Blue Category and when we make them up with bunk beds, they are Green Category!
 *Green Category:* When configured as doubles, these have two beds with above and below berths (bunk beds!) *Yellow Category:* The double-twin staterooms in this category are large and have two beds, side by side. *Blue Category:* When configured as singles, these have a single twin bed.

Green Category Staterooms

These double-twin staterooms are configured with above and below berths with single size mattresses - bunk beds! These are smaller than the Yellow staterooms, but are comfortable outside staterooms with large windows, private bathrooms, and air-conditioning. They can be in cabins 1, 2, 7, and 8.



Yellow Category Staterooms

These double-twin staterooms are large and have beds side by side. They are numbered #3, #4, #5, #6 and #0. The Yellow category stateroom #0 has a queen-size bed and a single bed, though a smaller bathroom.





Blue Category Single Staterooms

These are single staterooms with a single twin-sized bed. They are smaller than the Yellow staterooms, but have lots of windows, large bathrooms, and air-conditioning. They can be in cabins 1, 2, 7, and 8.











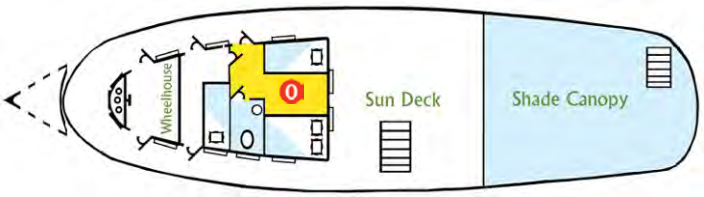
Deck Plans: The Motor Yacht Tucano

Because our cruises are quite active, we spend much of our time off the vessel exploring the forest, but when we are on board, the *M/Y Tucano* offers space to comfortably spread out and contemplate the wonders of nature. With over seventy large windows, the vessel is bright and airy. Most of the windows open and have screens, so travelers can enjoy the blossom scented air of the rainforest. The staterooms and the salon are air-conditioned and have elegant raised wood panelling so that the adventurers can travel in style. In the deck plans below this symbol: ▬ = windows. There are lots of them!



Observation Deck

On this deck there is only one stateroom, number 0 which is Yellow Category cabin. This stateroom has a queen size bed and a single-twin bed so it can accommodate three travelers. It is a large stateroom, but has a small bathroom.

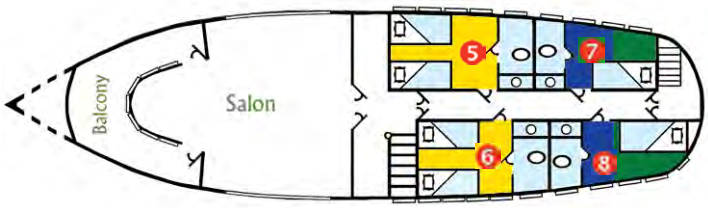




Middle Deck

Staterooms 5 and 6 are Yellow Category cabins and have two single-twin beds side by side.

Staterooms 7 and 8 can be configured as Green category cabins with a single mattress above and below (bunk beds!) or they can be configured as Blue Category staterooms a single-twin bed.



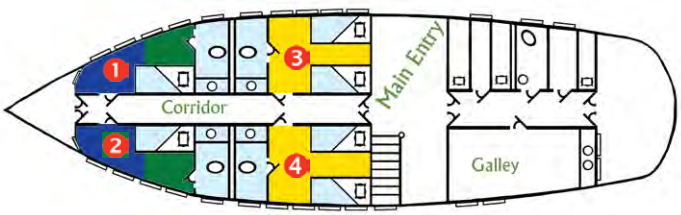


Salon / Dining Room

Main Deck

Staterooms 1 and 2 can be configured as Green category cabins with a bunk that has a single mattress above and below or can be configured as Blue Category staterooms a single-twin bed.

Staterooms 3 and 4 are Yellow Category cabins and have two single-twin beds side by side.





Sustainability

The *M/Y Tucano* conducts the most sustainable voyages in the Amazon. There are four parts of our sustainability policy: staffing, tour operations, equipment, and ship management.

It's all about the people. On our cruises our staff has a vital role in sustainable tourism. It is not just that they themselves are committed to the environment, and it is not just that they are highly trained professionals, but crucially, they are steady employees and members of our exploration team. This long-term employment ensures that the benefits of ecotourism, which are derived from protecting primary forest, are shared widely. All of us have a commitment to sharing our knowledge of the rainforest with our travelers in a sustainable way.

Operations

Tour operations on the *M/Y Tucano* are guided by very detailed "best practices" to protect the flora and fauna as well as help us in our relations with the traditional communities. Because our cruises voyage deep into the wilderness, we encounter rare wildlife and habitats and we are very careful to avoid disturbing them. All of our excursions off the ship are designed with conservation in mind. Many of our launch excursions are powered by electric motors. We have a policy of running on electrical power in wilderness areas, which does not disturb wildlife. We are routinely able to observe creatures that would otherwise be frightened by outboard noise. We also have optional guided kayak excursions most mornings on our cruises. Generally we do our best to enjoy the environment with as little impact as possible.

Equipment

The *M/Y Tucano* was designed to operate as sustainably as possible and our ship management focuses on energy conservation, pollution control, and waste reduction. Energy consumption is especially important and the vessel has equipment and procedures that help us reduce consumption while at the same time ensuring comfort for our travelers. Our equipment is sized to operate as sustainably as possible. Some of the more important measures in sizing for sustainability is smaller engines including outboard motors and generators.

In order to reduce fuel use and emissions, the *M/Y Tucano* was built with ***two*** independent water systems: one operated by gravity and one by electricity. The gravity system is not pressurized and is always available. The electrically powered pressure system is energized by diesel generators and produces hot water with "on-demand" water heaters. These are engaged only at certain specific times of the day in order to eliminate the need to heat water 24 hours per day, a very considerable energy requirement.



Solar Power

The *M/Y Tucano* has a policy of "*Solar Power Hours*" for certain hours during the daytime. When they are not needed, we actually turn off all fuel consuming machines and what energy we use comes from our solar panels. This is generally in the morning and late afternoon when travelers are off the vessel on excursions. The vessel remains comfortable even without electricity because it was designed to offer water and illumination even without diesel generators operating. In Solar Power Hours the sinks, toilets and the showers continue to function. Because the *M/Y Tucano* has large windows, travelers are able to use natural lighting during the day. All stateroom fixtures have LED lamps.

Climate Control

The *M/Y Tucano* has an efficient air-conditioning system that functions in the heat of the day and at night. Even during the Solar Power Hours, the staterooms usually stay cool because the vessel is thermally insulated. The stateroom windows open and close and have insect screens. Many travelers choose to turn off the air-conditioning for the duration of the voyage. In ship management we employ hotel sustainability techniques such as changing the stateroom linens every other day instead of every day, unless requested by the travelers. We also avoid the use of disposable packaging, where possible, and recycle our waste in the city of departure, Manaus, Brasil.

Cultural Preservation

To be truly sustainable, travel must also be attentive to the impacts on local communities. We are very careful to only positively benefit the small communities that we visit - after all, our crew members are from these communities. We avoid creating "made for tourism" events such as faux native dancing which can commercialize important traditions and erode community cohesion. Some families and communities have begun to produce hand-crafts for our travelers, but they are by no means becoming tourist traps. Our goal is to share the benefits of tourism in a positive and respectful way and to help preserve the natural environment by providing income from wild forest. We are all in this great mission together.

Altogether, the combination of specialized equipment, conservation procedures, and responsible tourism practices enable us on the *M/Y Tucano* to operate as sustainably as possible. We do everything we can to not disturb the wild and lovely Amazon wilderness rainforest that we have the privilege of visiting.



